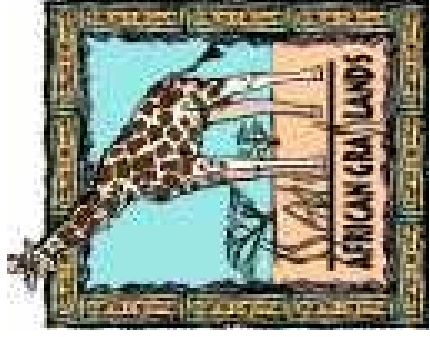




Giraffes are herbivores. They eat many types of plants depending on the season and the availability of certain plants. But they particularly like to eat parts of the acacia and mimosa brush.

Diet



The giraffe is found in the African Savannah.

Habitat



By Cheryl Tice
June 2003

The Giraffe

Description

The giraffe is a cream-colored mammal with brown spots all over its body. The spots are larger on its body and smaller on its head. Giraffes are vertebrates which means that they have a backbone. When full grown, giraffes can weigh between 1,000 and 2,000 pounds! They usually live between 20 to 25 years.

Predators

The only natural predators of the giraffe are the lion, hyena, and wild dogs.

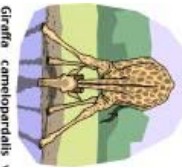


Giving Birth

Giraffes are mammals so they give birth to live young. The mother giraffe carries the baby giraffe in her womb for about 15 months before giving birth. Baby giraffes are about 6 feet tall at birth and grow as much as 4 feet in the first year of their lives!

Fun Facts

A giraffe's tongue can grow to be up to 21 inches long! It is called prehensile (it can grab and hold onto things). Giraffes often sleep standing up because it takes them a long time to stand up. Getting a drink of water can be dangerous for a giraffe. They must spread apart their front legs in order to lower their heads close enough to drink the water. This position leaves them vulnerable to prey.



Giraffe camelopardalis

RESOURCES

ANIMAL BYTES: <http://www.seaworld.org/AnimalBytes/giraffeab.html>

National Geographic:
Creature Feature. http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/creature_feature/0111/giraffes2.html.